

# **Make Your Own Equipment!**

## **Pop Can Fishing**

You don't need a lot of fancy or expensive equipment to fish. Once you learn how to tie a fishing knot and attach a split-shot sinker and bobber, you can make your own rig with an empty pop can.

### **To make a pop can rig, you'll need:**

An empty pop can

Masking tape

6- to 8-lb fishing line,  
(about 50 wraps)

A hook

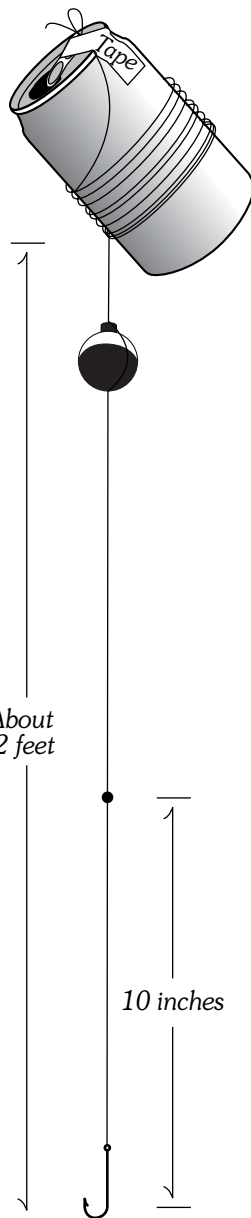
Split-shot sinkers

A bobber

Fingernail clippers to  
cut the line

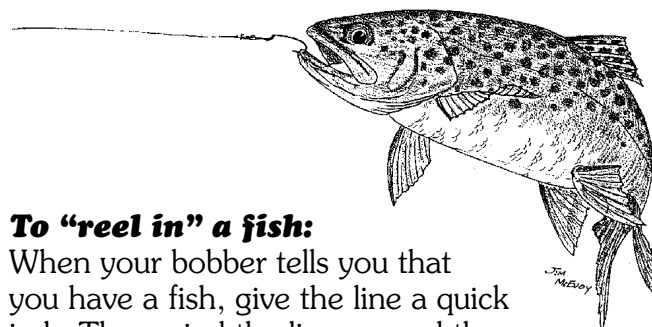
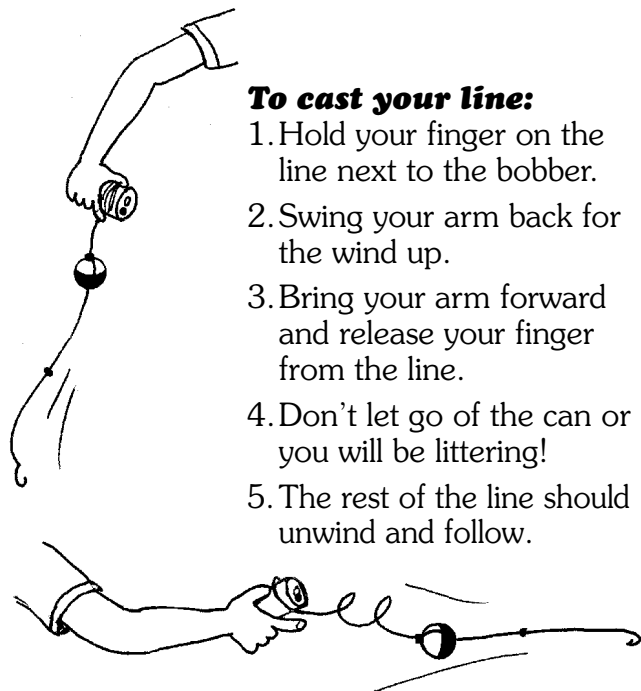
### **Build your pop can rig like this:**

1. Tie the end of the line to the pull-tab or around the can with a knot.
2. Securely and smoothly tape the knot and fishing line near the top of the pop can. If the tape is rumpled, it'll catch on the line. (You can also try it without the tape.)
3. Wrap the line around the pop can until you reach the last two feet of line.
4. Attach the bobber, split-shot sinker, and hook (see page 16-17 for directions).



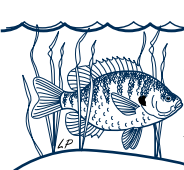
### **To cast your line:**

1. Hold your finger on the line next to the bobber.
2. Swing your arm back for the wind up.
3. Bring your arm forward and release your finger from the line.
4. Don't let go of the can or you will be littering!
5. The rest of the line should unwind and follow.



### **To "reel in" a fish:**

When your bobber tells you that you have a fish, give the line a quick jerk. Then wind the line around the can, keeping it tight until you can grab the fish.



Remember to recycle your pop-can rig when you finish using it. Aluminum is more valuable to recycling companies than any oil-based plastic container. Mining and processing new aluminum are very expensive both financially and environmentally. Glass is the best choice for beverage containers except on field trips.



# **Make Your Own Equipment - Teacher's notes**

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## **Objective**

Learn to make inexpensive fishing equipment.

## **Life Skill**

Resourcefulness

## **Materials**

Listed at right, plus practice casting plugs or corks.

## **Duration**

Allow at least 15 minutes to make the pop can rig, depending on how much help you have.  
Allow time to try out the rigs on the playground.

## **Resources**

Borrow *Backyard Bass* fish targets from the DNR's tackle loaner sites.

Adapted from *Get in the Habitat!*, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Pop" translates to "soda" in Wisconsin

